

The Impact of Studying Abroad over Time and Place: A Longitudinal Study of Indonesians Who Studied in Japanese Higher Educational Institutions

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Abstract. It is important to examine the influence of study abroad in long-term perspectives. Although there have been many studies on international students who study abroad, there are still few studies which examine the longitudinal impact of studying abroad, especially with the focus on those students who have had such studying abroad experiences in the past. The author has been conducting ethnographic follow-up studies on former Indonesian students in Japan, who currently have positions in universities and government agencies in Indonesia. This paper will examine how the learning and knowledge gained in Japan, through their experiences as international students in Japan, are described by those Indonesians, and how such knowledge is and is not used in their current professional life in Indonesia. It was found that there were some similarities in the way they explained as the influence of Japan, such as work ethic and team work. It was also found that not only the learning in Japan but also the context and environment that the informants were in Indonesia influenced the way they described and used their experience of study in Japan. Based on these findings, this paper will clarify how the experience of studying abroad influences their life and career over time and place.